

Empower Access Program

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and Tajikistan

Spring 2013 Reference Form

_____ (Please write in your first and last name)

_____ (Please write in the name of the applicant
whom you are recommending)

A program funded by



Bureau of Educational
and Cultural Affairs

Administered by

Empower Access Program

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and Tajikistan

I. About the Program

The Empower Access Program (EAP) is a regionally-focused, meaningful and innovative professional exchange program for individuals, organizations and offices working directly with people with disabilities. EAP is sponsored by the US Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. For Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and Tajikistan, EAP is administered by American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS.

EAP affords up to 15 international fellows from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and Tajikistan the opportunity to travel to the U.S. to undertake a month-long intensive, tailored fellowship at U.S. host organizations that will allow participants to explore in-depth issues including: NGO management and capacity building, inclusive practices in the arts, adaptive technology, sports management, inclusive education, inclusive policies and legislation, wellness initiatives, and advocacy. In addition, EAP will enable up to 15 Americans to participate in a reciprocal visit to their Fellows' host countries to carry out substantive projects.

Main goals of the Empower Access Program are to:

- Support the ability of individuals and organizations to serve as leading disability advocates;
- Promote policies and programs benefiting people with disabilities;
- Promote a robust civil society by enabling individuals and organizations working with people with disabilities to share best practices and facilitate cross-sector cooperating through two-way professional exchanges;
- Ensure that people with sensory impairments, physical disabilities, cross-disabilities, and their families and communities benefit from the transformational power of international exchanges;
- Build or expand sustainable networks of individuals and organizations serving people with disabilities;
- Establish a common language to develop practical solutions for shared problems and concerns.

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II. Instructions:

Please complete the form and email it or mail it to the local EAP coordinator.

If you need more space to answer any of the following questions, please feel free to use as much paper as you need, and simply attach these sheets of paper to this form. Make sure that you write your name on each of the additional sheets of paper.

Your letter of reference will be evaluated along with other application materials submitted by the applicant to determine applicant's suitability for the EAP scholarship program.

Please submit your letter of reference by December 10th. Recommendations submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

Questions:

If you have any questions, please contact your regional EAP coordinator. Contact information for your local coordinators is provided below.

<i>Country</i>	<i>EAP Coordinator</i>	<i>Email Address</i>
Kazakhstan	Zhanna Nurmakhanova	nurmakhanova@americancouncils-kz.com
Kyrgyzstan	Gulnura Abytalieva	empoweraccess@americancouncils.kg
Pakistan	Program Contact	empoweraccess@iearnpk.org
Tajikistan	Nodira Pirmanova	empoweraccess@americancouncils-tj.org

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III. Biographical Information

1. Family Name _____

First Name _____

Middle Name _____

2. Position/Title _____

3. Institution Name _____

4. Email Address _____

5. Office Telephone _____

6. In what context have you known the applicant?

7. How many years have you known the applicant? _____

8. If we have any questions, may we contact you during the regular business hours?

Yes/No (please circle one)

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IV. Applicant's Personality Traits

Compared to other professionals at a similar level you have known, please indicate your evaluation of the candidate in the following categories:

1. Intellectual Ability (Please circle one):

Excellent Average Below Average Not Observed

2. Commitment to His/Her Field (Please circle one):

Excellent Average Below Average Not Observed

3. Commitment to Public Service (Please circle one):

Excellent Average Below Average Not Observed

4. Interest in Advancing His/Her Professional Qualifications (Please circle one):

Excellent Average Below Average Not Observed

5. Initiative and Motivation (Please circle one):

Excellent Average Below Average Not Observed

6. Ability to Work Independently (Please circle one):

Excellent Average Below Average Not Observed

7. Ability to Work with Others as Part of a Team (Please circle one):

Excellent Average Below Average Not Observed

8. Intellectual Curiosity(Please circle one):

Excellent Average Below Average Not Observed

9. Ability to Adapt to New Situations (Please circle one):

Excellent Average Below Average Not Observed

10. Leadership Qualities (Please circle one):

Excellent Average Below Average Not Observed

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V. Narrative Statement

This statement should include any information that you feel would be of value in evaluating applicant's candidacy for the Empower Access Program. Be sure to discuss professional strengths as well as weaknesses.

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VI. Overall Evaluation

1. Please rate applicant's overall suitability for EAP (check one)

- ☐ I highly recommend that this applicant be considered for the program.
- ☐ I recommend with some reservation that this applicant be considered for the program.
- ☐ I do not recommend that this applicant be considered for the program.

2. Please explain your rating.

VII. Submission

Please submit your letter no later than December 10th. Before sending or emailing the recommendation, please review all of the answers and don't forget to sign the form.

I certify that all of the information provided in this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature

Full Name

Date